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The third meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1915 was held in its office at 1729 New York avenue, northwest, on Wednesday, November 25, 1914. The following members were present:

Mr. French, the Chairman;
Mr. Olmsted;
Mr. Hastings;
Mr. Gilbert;
Mr. Moore;
Mr. Blashfield;
also Colonel William W. Harts, Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 9:15 a. m., and proceeded at once to the business before it.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting, held on October 9, 1914, were presented and approved.

2. OIL PORTRAIT OF FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER, BY ROBERT VONNOH: Mr. French stated that he had talked with Mr. Vonnoh with reference to making certain changes in the portrait painted by the latter of former Chief Justice Fuller; this, among others, had been submitted at a former meeting by the Senate Committee on the Library for an opinion as to its artistic merit and the desirability of its acquisition by the Government. Mr. Vonnoh had informed him that he had been unaware of the fact

thatthe portrait had been offered to the United States; that he had painted it for the family of the deceased justice. Further, that it was not such a portrait, both in size and importance, as he would like to have placed in the Capitol or other public place in Washington, but that he would be ready to paint a portrait for the sum available, or even less. Mr. French agreed to write a letter in the matter to the Senate Committee on the Library. (See Exhibit A.).

3. IN RE EXHIBIT MATERIAL: The Commission expressed their appreciation of the Secretary's efforts in successfully getting together the material to constitute their proposed exhibit at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, and for bringing it to the attention of the President and the public. They further directed their clerk, Mr. Cammerer, to supervise the installation of the exhibit at the Exposition along lines proposed.

4. REPRODUCTION IN COLOR IN THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE, OF DRAWINGS, RENDERINGS, ETC., CONSTITUTING EXHIBIT: The Secretary notified the Commission of the request of the Editor of the National Geographic Magazine for authority to reproduce in color in the February number of that magazine, without expense to the Commission, all the important renderings, plans, etc., constituting the Commission's exhibit for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Mr. Gilbert Grosvenor, the editor, appeared

at eleven o'clock before the Commission and reiterated his request, asking at the same time that an article be furnished by the Commission to accompany the illustrations. The Commission expressed their appreciation of this opportunity to publish these renderings, but indicated that it would be more desirable if the article could be prepared by him and published under his name, all the data to be furnished by the Commission. Mr. Grosvenor consented to this. The Commission, however, agreed to furnish a short statement for inclusion in the article, setting forth their attitude with reference to the city of Washington. Each member was requested to transmit to the Secretary any suggestions that would occur to him as of interest in connection with this publication, and Mr. Olmsted, Mr. Moore and the Secretary were appointed a committee to furnish Mr. Grosvenor the necessary data for the preparation of his article.

5. PLANS, DESIGN, AND ORIENTATION, OF THE ARLINGTON MEMORIAL AMPHITHEATER AND CHAPEL: The Secretary next laid before the Commission a letter from the Secretary of War, Chairman of the Commission on the construction of a Memorial Amphitheater and Chapel at Arlington, Virginia, requesting their comment and advice regarding the plans and design for this structure, prepared by Carrere and Hastings, architects of New York City. Mr. Hastings, for the architects, explained the plans to the Commission. They were approved.

Colonel Harts, Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds and personal representative of the Secretary of War in the construction of the memorial, also requested the Commission's advice regarding the orientation of the structure. Mr. Hastings explained that this is contemplated to be due east and west, on the axis of the Maine monument, and perpendicular to the road at the foot of the cemetery. Mr. Hastings and Colonel Harts were, upon motion, appointed a committee to go over the ground and determine the orientation definitely. (See Exhibit B.).

6. NOMINATIONS FOR SELECTION OF EXPERT ADVISER TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR IN THE MATTER OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FRANCIS SCOTT KEY MONUMENT AT BALTIMORE, MD:

Colonel Harts laid before the Commission a letter from the Secretary of War, requesting the suggestion of names from which the selection of a competent architectural adviser could be made in the case of the erection of a monument at Baltimore, Md., to Francis Scott Key and others, and calling their attention to correspondence that had passed in the matter between the Secretary of War and the Mayor of Baltimore, Chairman of an advisory committee created under the Act for the erection of that monument. The Commission discussed the whole matter at some length. They thereupon nominated Mr. Arnold W. Brunner, Mr. Charles A. Platt, Mr. William M. Kendall, and Mr. John Russell Pope, all of New York City, and directed that these names be submitted to the

Secretary of War.

The Commission at the same time, upon inquiry of Colonel Harts, stated that a fee of $500 plus traveling expenses would be adequate compensation for the architectural adviser's preliminary work, but that, if further need arose for his services, a per diem compensation, suggested at $100 per day, should be arranged for. (See Exhibit C.).

7. EXPERT ADVISERS IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED MACDONOUGH MEMORIALS AT PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK: The Secretary stated that he also expected an inquiry from the War Department as to the best procedure in procuring satisfactory designs for memorials in "commemoration of the victory of Commodore Thomas Macdonough on Lake Champlain in September, 1814" to be erected "at or near Plattsburg, New York" by the States Vermont and New York, and requested the suggestion of names from whom the selection of an architectural adviser could be made in that case.

In view of the importance of the projects, and the amounts available, the Commission felt that a commission composed of an architect, a sculptor, and a landscape architect would ensure the best results, and gave the following names:

Architect: Wm. Rutherford Meade of New York City.

Alternates:
B. G. Goodhue, of New York City.
William H. Hunt, of New York City.
Philip Sawyer, of New York City.

Sculptor:

Herbert Adams, of New York City.

Landscape architect:

Charles Downing Lay, of New York City.

Alternate:
Prof. James S. Pray, Cambridge, Mass.

The Commission further suggested that a fee of $500 each plus expenses would be proper compensation in this case, but that, if it turned out that a considerable amount of time would be involved, a per diem arrangement be made. The Commission also felt that the same advisers should be consulted with respect to both monuments.

8. PLAN SHOWING PROPOSED LANDSCAPE TREATMENT OF RESERVATION NO: 29: Colonel Harts requested the opinion of the Commission regarding a design prepared by the Office of Public Buildings and Grounds for the treatment of Public Reservation No. 29 in this city. The Commission pointed out certain desirable changes, which will be followed.

9. IN RE MONUMENT TO BE ERECTED AT TALLAPOOSA, ALABAMA, BY WAR DEPARTMENT: The Secretary asked advice as to future action on his part in the matter of the procuring of a design by the War Department for a monument to be erected on the Horse Shoe Battleground at Tallapoosa, Alabama, should this matter again come before the Commission. The sum of $5,000 has been made available for this monument by Congress. He stated that the Commission's first recommendation was against a competition and,

since, because of the small amount available, the monument will probably be chiefly architectural, for the direct selection of an architect; that the War Department replied that such direct selection would be against the policy of that Department and public policy in general, and a competition therefore advisable; that the Department instead suggested the nomination by the Commission of three architects, one of whom would be selected by lot and paid an honorarium for the submission of a design, the competition to be otherwise open to all applicants; that thereupon the reply was made that, if a competition is necessary, an architectural adviser should be employed in order to draw up a satisfactory Programme of Competition after a thorough inspection of the ground and conditions of the site. Colonel Harts stated that he had not heard from the War Department in reply to this last recommendation, but that he expected a request for the suggestion of names from whom the selection of an architect, to be paid an honorarium for his work, could be made.

The Commission said that, if the War Department will ask for names from whom a selection of adviser can be made, Mr. Glenn Brown, Mr. J. Rush Marshall (both of Washington), Mr. Theodore Pietsch of Baltimore, Md., and Mr. Frederick W. Garber of Cincinnati, Ohio, be given; but that, if nominations are requested from whom an executant may be selected, the following names be transmitted:

Johannes Gelert, 11 East 24th street, New York City.

Chas. Keck, New York City.

Howard Sill, of Baltimore, Md.

The Commission recognized a necessity of devising some simple method of selecting artists by competition in such matters under the War Department, and Mr. Olmsted, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Blashfield and Mr. French were appointed a committee to outline a procedure.

The Commission also considered it desirable to procure from sculptors and mural painters in the country photographs of their executed works for a reference library, and directed the Secretary to take the necessary steps.

10. SENATE BILL PROPOSING PURCHASE OF REPLICA OF J. Q. A. WARD'S STATUE OF WASHINGTON FOR EAST FRONT OF CAPITOL: The Secretary next laid before the Commission the request of the Senate Committee on the Library upon Senate Bill. 3120, 63d Congress, 1st Session, proposing the acquisition of a replica of J. Q. A. Ward's statue of Washington for the east front of the Capitol. The Commission recommended the purchase of the replica, the site to be selected later. (See Exhibit D.).

11. SENATE BILL PROPOSING ACQUISITION OF PAINTING "OUR GLORY-THE BATTLESHIP OREGON" BY HALSALL: Mr. Blashfield reported that he had inspected Mr. Halsall's painting "Our Glory-The Battleship Oregon", the acquisition of which is proposed in

Senate Bill 5560, 63d Congress, 2d Session, and that he found that Mr. Halsall had made changes pointed out to him on a former occasion as desirable. The Commission, after hearing this report, reported to the Senate Committee on the Library that, in their opinion, the historical value of this subject is very great; that the artistic value of the picture, although less great, is sufficient in combination with the said historic importance, to justify its purchase by the Government at a price to be determined, but not in excess of the amount proposed in the bill. (See Exhibit D ½)

12. VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL BILLS HELD OVER FOR REPORT: The following bills, transmitted for report by the Senate Committee on the Library, were held over for the reasons given:

Senate Bill 4472, 63d Congress, 2d Session, "To provide for the erection of a statue at the Panama Canal to be symbolic of Universal peace,"

Senate Bill 4882, 63d Congress, 2d Session, "To erect a monument to Ferdinand de Lesseps" upon a site in the Isthmian Canal Zone; until Senator Newlands, who introduced the first bill, could be communicated with.

House Resolution 17041, 63d Congress, 2d Session, to purchase oil portraits of 25 former justices of the Supreme Court; until Justice Pitney of the Supreme Court can have been heard from.

13. SENATE BILL PROVIDING FOR ACQUISITION OF PAINTING "THE DEATH OF BREVET LIEUT. COLONEL ALONZO H. CUSHING AT GETTYSBURG": The Senate Committee on the Library was informed that no report could be rendered on Senate Bill 4074, 63d Congress, 2d Session, "To purchase an oil painting entitled "The Death of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel

Alonzo H. Cushing at Gettysburg", as that painting had not been received for inspection. The painting, as far as can be ascertained, has never been received in Washington. (See Exhibit E.).

14. SENATE BILLS PROPOSING ERECTION IN WASHINGTON OF MONUMENTS TO GENERAL SULLIVAN AND MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY: S. 5194, 63d Congress, 2d Session, providing for the erection in Washington of a statue of General John Sullivan and S. 1396, 63d Congress, 1st Session, providing for the erection in Washington of a monument to Matthew Fontaine Maury were considered together by the Commission, since they both provide for erection of monuments in the city of Washington. Their consideration led to a discussion of historic perspective in the erection of monuments in this city, and the necessity for some action in remedying this lack of historic balance in future cases. Adraft of a report on these two bills, prepared by Mr. Moore and Mr. Olmsted, in which this matter was treated at some length, was read by Mr. Moore, and adopted by the Commission. (See Exhibit F.).

15. BILLS PROPOSING ERECTION OF MONUMENTS IN ARLINGTON TO GENERAL LAWTON, AND ADMIRALS WILKES AND PORTER: Mr. Moore read a report which Mr. Olmsted and he had prepared upon S. 5916, 63d Congress, 2d Session, for erecting a monument in Arlington over the grave of Admiral David D. Porter, - S. 2440, 63d Congress, 2d Session, for

erecting a monument in Arlington on the grave of Major General Henry W. Lawton, - and S. 4253, 63d Congress, 2d Session, for erecting a monument in Arlington over the remains of Rear Admiral Charles Wilkes. In addition to the specific recommendation on these bills that the appropriation for such monuments be limited to one thousand dollars in each case, the recommendation was made that measures be adopted for controlling at least the more extreme vagaries of individual taste in the design of monuments for the cemetery. (See Exhibit G.).

16. IN RE ACQUISITION OF WORKS OF ART IN GENERAL BY GOVERNMENT: Mr. Moore read a letter to the Chairman, Senate Committee on the Library, prepared by Mr. Olmsted and himself, in which the question of the acquisition of works of art by Congress was treated. The question was raised and included in the report as to whether Congress ought not to consider the advantages of the systematic method employed by other countries where appropriation is made from time to time for the purchase of works of art and a very thorough and systematic search is made to secure representative examples of the best works of art to be found in the country from the funds thus made available. (See Exhibit H.). See Exhibit D

17. There being no more business to come before the meeting, the Commission adjourned, at 1:30 p. m., subject to the call of the Chairman.

Approved: Daniel C. French
CHAIRMAN

Mcr. Butt
COLONEL, U. S. ARMY,
SECRETARY

December 2, 1914.

Hon. Luke Lea,
Chairman, Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

Sir:

On July twenty-seventh last the Commission of Fine Arts reported to your Committee that they had examined each of the five portraits of former Chief Justice Fuller, painted respectively by Mr. Gray, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Whipple, and Mr. Vonnoh, which had been referred by your Committee on July fourteenth.

The Commission found that none of the portraits offered was of the standard of excellence that should be required, and so reported. The portrait by Mr. Vonnoh was considered the best of these five, and in many respects excellent, but it was not felt to be a representative example of this artist's work. It has since been ascertained that the portrait painted by him and included in the five referred by your Committee was not offered by Mr. Vonnoh or with his knowledge, and he himself does not regard it as of the character that a portrait should have which is to be placed in the Capitol of the Nation.

Mr. Vonnoh has expressed the wish to be permitted by your Committee to furnish a portrait painting of Justice Fuller of the size and character that he felt to be necessary, and he offered to furnish such a portrait, to be subject to the approval of the Commission of Fine Arts, for the price at which the portrait under consideration was offered.

The Commission recommend that Mr. Vonnoh be engaged to paint such a portrait at the price available, which is understood to be fifteen hundred dollars.

Very respectfully, yours,

DANIEL C. FRENCH

Chairman.

A

November 30, 1914.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting on November 25, 1914, carefully examined the plans and design for the proposed Memorial Amphitheater and Chapel at Arlington, Virginia, by Carrere and Hastings, architects of New York City, as requested by you in letter dated November 7, 1914, and have the honor to express their approval of the plans and design.

Very respectfully,

DANIEL C. FRENCH

Chairman.

November 23, 1914.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting last Wednesday, gave careful consideration to your letter of November twelfth, and the correspondence transmitted therewith. In compliance with your request for the suggestion of names of competent men from whom the selection of a professional adviser can be made in connection with the erection of a monument at Baltimore, Maryland, to Francis Scott Key and others, the Commission believes that the best results will be obtained by selecting one of the following names, arranged alphabetically, for expert adviser:

Arnold W. Brunner, 101 Park avenue, New York City.

Wm. M. Kendall, C/o McKim, Mead, and White, 101 Park avenue, New York City.

Charles A. Platt, 11 East 24th street, New York City.

John Russell Pope, 527 Fifth avenue, New York City.

Respectfully,

DANIEL C. FRENCH

Chairman.

C

November 13, 1918.

The Honorable

The Secretary of War,

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting last Wednesday, gave careful consideration to your letter of November twelfth, and the correspondence transmitted therewith. In complying with your request for the suggestion of names of competent men from whom the selection of a professional adviser can be made in connection with the erection of a monument at Baltimore, Maryland, to Francis Scott Key and others, the Commission believes that the best results will be obtained by making one of the following names, arranged alphabetically, for consultation:

Arnold W. Brunner, 101 Park avenue, New York City.

Mr. R. Kendall, C/o Walkin, Dodd, and Burke, 101 Park avenue, New York City.

Charles A. Platt, 11 West 34th street, New York City.

John Russell Pope, 547 Fifth avenue, New York City.

Respectfully,

CHARLES Y. MCKIM

Chairman.

November 27, 1914.

The Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, at their meeting last Wednesday, gave careful consideration to your request of June 30, 1914, for report upon S. 5560, 63d Congress, 2d Session "To purchase an oil painting entitled "Our Glory-the Battleship Oregon", by William F. Halsall.

After an inspection of the painting the Commission report that, in their opinion, the historical value of this subject is very great; that the artistic value of the picture, although less great, is sufficcent in combination with the said historic importance to justify its purchase by the Government at a price to be determined, not in excess of the amount proposed to be appropriated in the bill.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

W. W. HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.

ABC

Copy.

January 18, 1915.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3120, 63d Congress, 1st Session) for the erection of a replica of John Quincy Adams Ward's statue of Washington, respectfully reports.

The Ward statue of Washington erected in front of the United States Subtreasury Building in the City of New York, is recognized as one of the fine works of sculpture in this country. The purchase of a replica and its erection in connection with the Capitol Building is a project worthy of favorable consideration.

In this connection the Commission of Fine Arts takes occasion to express its opinion of such projects as follows:

During the four years of its existence the Commission of Fine Arts has had the privilege of being asked by the Committees on the Library of the Senate and the House of Representatives to report upon bills providing for the acquisition of works of art by the Government, including both the creation of new works of art to meet special requirements, memorial and otherwise, and also the purchase of existing works of art. A review of the latter class of cases leads the Commission to present the following general considerations:

The Commission has generally been asked to express an independent opinion in regard to each one of the works of art in

Exhibit D.

question: upon its artistic merit and, frequently, upon its money value. In reply to the first question, the Commission has endeavored primarily to draw the line between those works of sufficient artistic merit to be worthy of permanent possession by the Government and those of such inferior merit as not to be worthy of that distinction. This line can and should be drawn regardless of whether the objects in question are offered as gifts or for prices above or below their normal market value; and the Commission feels that it can serve a useful purpose in a negative way by assisting committees of Congress and other offices of government to draw this line. It is obvious, however, that among the works of art which can pass this test there are large variations in degree of excellence, and moreover that the money values, even where they can be appraised with some approach to certainty, are not in themselves an index of the relative importance of securing different works of art for the Government. There is no scale upon which that importance can be indicated in positive terms, and in making independent reports upon many different works of art proposed for acquisition by the Government, the Commission has been conscious of the fact that it was not giving to the committees of Congress as much assistance as could be desired in choosing among the more or less desirable and in maintaining a consistent and businesslike policy in such matters.

The problem would appear to be that of applying such sums of money as Congress may see fit to appropriate for the purchase of works of art, so as to get as nearly as possible the best examples obtainable for the money, rather than merely to keep above a minimum standard of excellence. The question may fairly be raised, therefore, whether Congress ought not to consider the advantages of

the more systematic method employed in some other countries, notably in France, where an appropriation is made from time to time for the purchase of works of contemporary art, and a very thorough and systematic search is made to secure, with the sums thus made available, representative examples of the best works of art to be found in the country.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) Wm. W. Harts,

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. Luke Lea,

Chairman, Committee on the Library,

United States Senate.

November 25, 1914.

The Chairman,
Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts, to whom was referred S. 4074, 63d Congress, 2d Session, "To purchase an oil painting entitled "The Death of Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Alonzo H. Cushing at Gettysburg", by H. E. Brown, respectfully reports that the painting referred to has not been submitted to the Commission for examination and therefore the Commission is unable to express an opinion upon its artistic merit. It is understood that the painting has never been received in Washington.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

WM. W. HARTS

Colonel, U. S. Army,

Secretary and Executive Officer.